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Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: trade and investment

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its ninth session

Summary

The ninth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) was held in Bangkok on 19 November 2013. The Governing Council endorsed the proposed programme of work of the Centre for 2014 as recommended by the Technical Committee at its ninth session, which was held in Kuala Lumpur on 11 and 12 November 2013. The Governing Council also commended the Centre for the work it had accomplished during the reporting period with the limited resources available and made valuable suggestions with regard to strengthening the capacity of the Centre to meet the needs of member countries.

The Council advised the Centre to raise its profile among government ministries and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region by highlighting the important role it plays and its accomplishments. Particular focus should be placed on countries that have not engaged in any activities with the Centre recently. In that regard, the Council expressed appreciation for the planned digital strategy of the Centre as a means of raising the profile of its programme of work and making the outcomes known to a wider audience. The Council suggested that the Centre stress the value of its programme to member countries by clearly defining its role with regard to other organizations having similar mandates and developing performance indicators as per established United Nations programme management practices.

Taking note of the current administrative, financial and human resources of the Centre, the Governing Council reiterated that there was a need for member countries to enhance their annual contribution of $30,000 for developing countries and $7,000 for least developed countries in line with the recommendation made by the Council in 2009. The Governing Council also stressed the importance of timely and regular remittance of payments to the Centre. It advised the Centre to expand the participation of member countries in new projects and forthcoming activities on the view that the increased exposure and benefits resulting from those endeavours would encourage more countries to contribute institutional support.

The Governing Council expressed appreciation for (a) the support provided to APCTT by its host country, India, (b) the voluntary contributions from other member countries and (c) the support of the secretariat of ESCAP.

The Commission may wish to review the recommendations of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

* E/ESCAP/70/L.1.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention	2
	A. Enhancement of institutional support	2
	B. Technical cooperation project resources and joint activities	3
	C. Assignment of national experts	3
II.	Summary of proceedings	3
	A. Report on the activities of the Centre during the period December 2012 to November 2013 and presentation of the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015	3
	B. Report of the Technical Committee on its ninth meeting	4
	C. Proposed future projects and programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015	4
	D. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Governing Council	6
	E. Other matters	6
	F. Adoption of the report	6
III.	Organization of the session	6
	A. Opening	6
	B. Attendance	6
	C. Election of officers	6
	D. Adoption of the agenda	6

Annexes

I.	List of documents	8
II.	Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for the year ended 31 December 2013	9
III.	Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for the year ended 31 December 2013 by project component	10
IV.	Cash contributions to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology received for the year ended 31 December 2013	11

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

A. Enhancement of institutional support

1. In view of the increasing operational costs, the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) encourages member States to augment their contributions to APCTT in line with the recommendations of the Governing Council, which are $30,000 for developing countries and $7,000 for least developed countries.

2. The Council suggests that the Centre increase the number of target countries in its new projects and ongoing activities, wherever possible. This would not only enhance the outreach of the APCTT programmes and their

benefits to more member countries but also encourage them to consider providing institutional support to the Centre.

B. Technical cooperation project resources and joint activities

3. Appreciating the innovative approach of mapping the proposed activities of the member countries and new projects approved by the Committee with its five-year strategic plan and synergizing activities with the three programme areas, the Council recommends that the Centre position its activities to maintain relevance to the development agenda beyond 2015.

4. The Council recommends that the Centre develop technical cooperation projects and activities in niche areas to position and differentiate itself from other international organizations having similar mandates. In this regard, the Council also suggests that the Centre develop key performance indicators as per the United Nations programme management guidelines and practices.

C. Assignment of national experts

5. For enhanced programme delivery of the Centre, it is important to strengthen and augment its human resources. The Governing Council suggests that the Centre pursue the secondment of non-reimbursable loan experts from member countries.

II. Summary of proceedings

A. Report on the activities of the Centre during the period December 2012 to November 2013 and presentation of the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015

(Agenda item 4)

6. The Governing Council had before it the following documents: (a) report on the activities of the Centre during the period December 2012 to November 2013 (TID/APCTT/GC(9)/3); (b) report on the status of financial resources (TID/APCTT/GC(9)/4); and (c) report of the Technical Committee on its ninth meeting (TID/APCTT/GC/(9)/5).

7. The report on the activities of APCTT from December 2012 to November 2013 was presented to provide an overview of the capacity-building activities organized in the area of science, technology and innovation (STI), technology transfer, and technology intelligence, which had been identified as three focus programme areas in the five-year strategic plan (2013-2017). Those activities focused on: (a) promotion of national innovation systems; (b) technology transfer support services for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); (c) promotion of critical emerging technologies, such as renewable energy technologies, biotechnology and nanotechnology; and (d) provision of information, networking and the sharing of experiences relating to the management of technology, and enhancing technology intelligence through the provision of technology information services.

8. Introducing the report on the activities of the Centre, the Head of APCTT informed the Council that APCTT had organized more than 23 capacity-building activities with participants from 20 countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. He added that the activities of APCTT were jointly organized in cooperation with more than 35 partner institutions

that included government ministries, national institutions and international agencies.

9. He further elaborated on specific programmes and activities that were documented in the report on the activities of the Centre during the period December 2012 to November 2013.

10. The Council was briefed on the Centre's current financial status and expenditures during the reporting period. Despite having implemented several cost-saving measures, the Centre had been increasingly facing financial constraints, not only in implementing its substantive programmes and activities but also in meeting the institutional and local operating costs. It was suggested that the Government of India could consider enhancing its annual contribution to the Centre to cover its operating costs. The annual contributions pledged to APCTT by member countries had remained static for several years. In view of the increasing financial constraints faced by the Centre, members and associate members were urged to increase institutional support to the indicative levels — an annual contribution of $30,000 from developing countries and $7,000 from least developed countries — or above, to enable the Centre to deliver effective services to members and associate members on a sustainable basis.

11. The Governing Council commended the significant work done by APCTT during the reporting period and recommended the development of an innovative digital technology strategy to improve the outcomes of its planned projects and activities.

12. The Governing Council took note of the administrative and financial status of APCTT, in particular its current financial and human resources. It discussed various possibilities and modalities through which member countries could enhance their contributions and support the Centre in its comprehensive work programme in view of the increasing financial burden on the Centre as highlighted during the meeting. It urged resourceful member countries to consider sending non-reimbursable loan experts to the Centre.

B. Report of the Technical Committee on its ninth meeting

(Agenda item 5)

13. The Council had before it the report of the Technical Committee on its ninth meeting (TID/APCTT/GC(9)/5).

14. The Council endorsed the report of the Technical Committee.

C. Proposed future projects and programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015

(Agenda item 6)

15. The Governing Council emphasized the importance of strengthening science, technology and innovation-based regional cooperation for the development and creation of technologies for national economic development, especially for the betterment of society in general. It suggested that member countries should come forward to support the Centre's planned projects by providing and/or sharing the necessary financial and human resources.

16. The Governing Council approved the following recommendations on the planned programme of work of APCTT, as advised by the Technical Committee. The suggested future activities were subject to the approval of the respective Governments of the participating member countries:

(a) Phase 2 of the Renewable Energy Cooperation-Network for Asia and the Pacific should be pursued. However, the Committee noted that other renewable energy initiatives proposed by the Centre should be rolled into that activity, with a view to forming an umbrella project that contained other subactivities. Furthermore, the outputs of previous expert groups convened by APCTT on renewable energy should be examined with a view to identifying issues to be addressed by the new activities. The Committee also stressed that member countries should be able to allow their sectoral experts to work with APCTT in further developing that initiative;

(b) The Committee expressed strong support for the Centre's involvement in driving the increased application of traditional medicine to address subhealth issues and allow more cost-effective treatment to reach a greater number of people. With the strong support of China, APCTT could facilitate a network of member countries to address such issues as public acceptability, education, modernization of traditional practices and technology transfer;

(c) The Committee endorsed the work of APCTT on capacity-building for national innovation systems and provided some valuable suggestions for future work. Many of the individual suggestions made by Committee members could be captured under the Centre's NIS strategy. Those included proposals to address the issues of SME technology valuation, management of science and technology parks, women in STI, an open innovation platform for SME competitiveness, and public good and intellectual property management. It was also proposed that the Centre undertake institutional capacity-building in STI diagnosis and strategy development using best practices, including APCTT-STEPI developed research methodologies with national case studies from Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal;

(d) A proposal on micro-entrepreneurship was supported by the Committee. The Committee had suggested that the technologies with the potential for high growth should be targeted as well as sustainable energy and appropriate technology. The overall sustainability of the microenterprise should be examined during the development of the proposal, including such issues as market scale. The policy dimension should also be considered in developing that proposal, and the Committee suggested that APCTT should work with member countries on a technology policy that was supportive of micro-entrepreneurs;

(e) Advanced biotechnology for bioenergy had been identified by the Committee as a new and emerging area of technology for APCTT to pursue given the Centre's links to sustainable energy and energy security. The Committee noted that the advanced bioenergy technologies under the proposal would have to be developed in such a way as to avoid unintended consequences, such as a detrimental impact on the food supply;

(f) The Council further suggested that the Centre facilitate technical exchange visits and the participation of member countries in national technology exhibitions, as well as the identification of critical technology needs of selected member countries where technology collaboration could yield solutions.

D. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Governing Council
(Agenda item 7)

17. In line with the ESCAP recommendation, the Governing Council decided that its tenth session should be held at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok in mid-December 2014.

E. Other matters
(Agenda item 8)

18. The Governing Council noted with appreciation the institutional and programmatic support being provided by the Government of India to APCTT.

19. The Governing Council expressed appreciation for the guidance and valuable support provided to the Centre by the Trade and Investment Division of ESCAP.

20. The Governing Council extolled the Centre for managing to conduct a significant number of capacity-building activities for the benefit of member countries with the limited resources at its disposal.

F. Adoption of the report
(Agenda item 9)

21. The Council adopted the present report on 19 November 2013.

III. Organization of the session

A. Opening

22. The ninth session of the Governing Council of APCTT was held in Bangkok on 19 November 2013. The session was called to order by the Head of APCTT. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP made an opening statement.

B. Attendance

23. The session was attended by representatives of the following member countries: China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Malaysia; Nepal; Philippines; Sri Lanka; and Thailand.

C. Election of officers

24. The Council unanimously elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Indu **Bhaskar** (India)
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Bambang **Subiyanto** (Indonesia)

D. Adoption of the agenda

25. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Report on the activities of the Centre during the period December 2012 to November 2013 and presentation of the

programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.

5. Report of the Technical Committee on its ninth meeting.

6. Proposed future projects and programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.

7. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Governing Council.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report.

Annex I

List of documents

Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
TID/APCTT/GC/(9)1	Provisional agenda	3
TID/APCTT/GC/(9)2	Annotated provisional agenda	3
TID/APCTT/GC(9)/3	Report on the activities of the Centre during the period December 2012 to November 2013	4
TID/APCTT/GC(9)/4	Report on the status of financial resources	4
TID/APCTT/GC/(9)/5	Report of the Technical Committee on its ninth meeting	4, 5
TID/APCTT/GC/(9)	Tentative programme	
N/A	Provisional list of participants	

Annex II

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for the year ended 31 December 2013
(United States dollars)

	2013	2012
Income		
Contributions	599 737	204 709
Interest Income	10 306	11 014
Total income	610 043	215 723
Less: Expenditure	316 671	538 162
Net income over expenditure	293 372	(322 439)
Fund balance as at 1 January 2013	513 058	835 497
Less: Refunds to donors	19,127	-
Fund balance as at 31 December 2013	**787 303**	**513 058**

Note: This financial statement excludes expenditures of $54,021 incurred under financial authorization from the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) for co-implemention of a Development Account project and expenditures of $71.684 incurred under the co-implementation of the European Union project entitled Network for Knowledge Transfer on SATNET Asia, which is led by the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA). For the report of CAPSA, see E/ESCAP/70/8.

Annex III

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for the year ended 31 December 2013 by project component
(United States dollars)

	240B **Joint Contributions - Capacity Development Project**	240C **Government of India - Capacity Development Project**	2114 **Government of India - TC Project: Promotion of Renewable Energy**	2123 **Government of India - TC Project: National Innovation System**	T131 **United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation (Section 23)**	**Total**
Income						
Contributions	173 902	398 557	-	-	27 278	599 737
Interest income	2 321	7 680	74	231	-	10 306
Total income	176 223	406 237	74	231	27 278	610 043
Less: Expenditure	72 246	202 520	(1 664)	16 291	27 278	316 671
Net income over expenditure	103 977	203 717	1 738	(16 060)	-	293 372
Fund balance as at 1 January 2013	390 142	56 532	17 389	48 995	-	513 058
Less: Refunds to donors	-	-	19 127[a]	-	-	19 127
Fund balance as at 31 December 2013	**494 119**	**260 249**	**-**	**32 935**	**-**	**787 303**

[a] Fund balance transferred to global account G005-MIS_GLOB.

Annex IV

Cash contributions to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for the year ended 31 December 2013
(United States dollars)

Country/Area	Year ended 31December 2013	Year ended 31December 2012
1. Capacity development projects		
Bangladesh	25 000[a]	-
China	30 000	30 000
India	410 806	-
India - GIZ-ASEM	-	1 761
Indonesia	10 000	10 000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	15 153	-
Macao, China	5 000	5 000
Malaysia	15 000	15 000
Pakistan	7 500	7 500
Philippines	30 000	-
Republic of Korea	-	-
Sri Lanka	5 000	5 000
Thailand	15 000	15 000
Viet Nam	4 000	8 000
Subtotal	**572 459**[b]	**97 261**
2. Technical cooperation projects		
India (for promotion of renewable energy)	-	87 500
India (for national innovation system)	-	-
Subtotal	-	**87 500**
Total	**572 459**[b]	**184 761**

[a] The contribution from the Ministry of Science and Technology this year included $5,000 (Yr 2009) and $5,000 (Yr 2010).

[b] The contributions exclude contributions to the European Union project entitled Network for Knowledge Transfer on SATNETAsia, which is led by the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA), and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) is one of the implementing partners. The share of the 2013 contribution that was alloted to APCTT for implementation amounts to $210,248. For the report of CAPSA, see E/ESCAP/70/8.

Note: GIZ-ASEM is a joint programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India and the German International Cooperation agency on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development focusing on advisory services for environmental management.